

MINUTES

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 9, 2003

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rolling Hills Estates was called to order at 7:32 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 4045 Palos Verdes Drive North, by MAYOR RAUCH.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MAYOR RAUCH led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members Present: Addleman, Mitchell, Rauch, Seamans, Zuckerman

City Staff Present: City Manager Doug Prichard

City Attorney Richard Terzian

Assistant City Manager Sam Wise

Planning Director David Wahba

Community Services Director Andy Clark

Administrative Analyst Greg Grammer

Others Present: Michael Conway, Planning Commissioner

ROUTINE MATTERS (Taken out of order)

A. CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25, 2003

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL

TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2003 AS PRESENTED.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR RAUCH SO ORDERED.

B. CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2003

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS

TO APPROVE THE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2003.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR RAUCH SO ORDERED.

C. DEMANDS AND WARRANTS – MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL

TO APPROVE Warrants 34652 through 34696 in the amount of \$175,953.29; Warrants 34576 through 34615 in the amount of \$109,725.77; Supplemental Warrants 100301 through 100302; 34402 through 34417; 34485 through 34493; 34553 through 34557 in the amount of \$194,445.47 for a grand total amount of \$480,124.53 with proper audit.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Rauch, Seamans, Zuckerman

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

A. PRESENTATIONS TO MAYOR RAUCH

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL commended MAYOR RAUCH on her many years of serving the City, but first introduced various dignitaries for presentations to COUNCIL MEMBER-ELECT ZERUNYAN.

Supervisor Mike Antonovich presented COUNCIL MEMBER-ELECT ZERUNYAN with a certificate and stated that the residents chose someone with integrity to represent the City. He wished him well on his term as a Council Member.

Planning Commission Chairman Somers presented COUNCIL MEMBER-ELECT ZERUNYAN with a plaque for his service on the Planning Commission. Chairman Somers noted it was his honor and privilege to serve with Mr. Zerunyan and thanked him for his years of dedication on the Commission.

Barry Basscher, Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, made a presentation on behalf of Rick Auerbach congratulating Mr. Zerunyan on his election to the CITY COUNCIL.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, representing the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, presented Mr. Zerunyan with an order and congratulated Mr. Zerunyan on behalf of the Armenian community on his term as a Council Member.

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL then presented MAYOR RAUCH with a proclamation from Senator Betty Karnette in recognition for outstanding service as Mayor and Council Member of the City from 1991-2003.

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL also presented MAYOR RAUCH with a certificate of recognition from the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District for her 12 years of distinguished service on the COUNCIL.

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL presented a proclamation to MAYOR RAUCH on behalf of the West Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors citing her dedication and commitment to representing the interests of the business community and all residents as well as colleagues from the City.

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL presented MAYOR RAUCH with a certificate on behalf of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Chamber of Commerce in support of the business community.

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL presented a certificate recognizing MAYOR RAUCH'S dedication as a long-time member of the Jack Kramer Club and her service on the Board of Directors.

On behalf of Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, Fadi Essmaeel, Homeland Security Director, presented MAYOR RAUCH with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition for her service to the residents of Rolling Hills Estates.

On behalf of Assemblyman Alan Lowenthal, Broc Coward presented a certificate stating that MAYOR RAUCH'S leadership experience has been a valuable resource and it is in that way that she has contributed to making the City a wonderful place to live.

On behalf of Supervisor Knabe, Deputy Mike Gin commented that he will miss working with MAYOR RAUCH. He noted that individuals who serve in local government are to be admired for their hard work. He thanked her for 12 years of service on the COUNCIL and stated that it was his honor to have worked with her.

Captain Jay Zuanich, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, presented MAYOR RAUCH with a commendation on behalf of the Regional Law Enforcement Committee. He then presented a certificate in recognition for her service to the citizens of Rolling Hills Estates stating that her service has been invaluable and thanked her for her support.

Frank Hill, Mayor, City of Rolling Hills, commented that he has worked with MAYOR RAUCH for 10 years on many mutual issues. He presented her with a proclamation of appreciation for her hard work. He then noted that it was wonderful working with her and wished her "Happy Trails."

Peter Gardiner, Mayor, and Larry Clark, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Rancho Palos Verdes, noted their pleasure to have worked with MAYOR RAUCH. Mayor Pro Tem Clark commented that she provided worthwhile input on what it is like to be an elected official and that he has benefited from those comments. He then thanked her for her gentle demeanor and leadership. Mayor Gardiner noted that the proclamation presented exemplified the outstanding dedicated civic leadership within the Palos Verdes Peninsula, specifically, with the COUNCIL taking action to preserve the Dapplegray site and thanked the other COUNCIL MEMBERS as well. He then noted that the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, its staff and residents wished her well.

Ken Blackwood, President, League of California Cities, and Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lomita, stated that, as a life-long resident of the South Bay, he appreciated the work of the Rolling Hills Estates City Council and the Peninsula to maintain open space that many in the region enjoy. He noted he had served on the Vector Control Board with MAYOR RAUCH and that she always was looking out for the residents. He then presented her with a certificate on behalf of the League of California Cities.

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL was pleased to list many of MAYOR RAUCH'S accomplishments over the last 23 years which began with her service on the Park and Activities Commission, particularly, her involvement with the City Celebration. She noted that MAYOR RAUCH was the kind of person who was very thoughtful and acknowledged others' efforts in coordinating the City Celebration as well as the Tracy Austin Doubles Tennis Tournament. She then went on to comment that MAYOR RAUCH was dedicated to preserving the rural character of the City and assisted in establishing the Chandler Preserve as well. Other committees she served on included George F Canyon Nature Center, Regional Law Enforcement, Equestrian, Peninsula Transit Authority and the South Bay Youth Project. Additionally, she noted that her service proved to be invaluable and that the City will truly miss her.

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL then read a poem she wrote for MAYOR RAUCH stating that she will always be a part of the City family in appreciation for everything she has done. She then presented her with an original tile designed by local artist Zen del Rio.

MAYOR RAUCH first thanked the residents for letting her represent them and went on to thank City Manager Doug Prichard for his constant support, as well as other staff members. She noted that she believed the COUNCIL was always a team working towards a safe rural community and that she has confidence that the Council will continue to do what is right for the City. She went on to thank her husband, Bob, for his encouragement as well.

In closing, MAYOR RAUCH provided several "tips" for COUNCIL MEMBER-ELECT ZERUNYAN on how to work with the other COUNCIL MEMBERS.

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL then presented MAYOR RAUCH with her picture to place on the "Wall of Honor" in the Council Chambers.

At 8:15 p.m., Deputy City Clerk Hope Nolan administered the Oath of Allegiance to newly elected City Council Members John Addleman, Judith Mitchell and Frank Zerunyan, who by taking this oath, entered into full four-year terms as Members of the Rolling Hills Estates City Council.

Once the COUNCIL reconvened, the following comments were made:

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL noted she is looking forward to a second term and thanked the community for their support of the COUNCIL.

COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN commented that he has enjoyed his past seven years with MAYOR RAUCH and appreciated her contributions to the City. He then stated he is looking forward to the next four years.

COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN addressed the audience noting that he was humbled by the responsibility placed upon him to serve the City. He thanked everyone who supported him in this endeavor adding that he is fulfilling his childhood promise to serve as a city council member. He then provided an extensive personal background of how his family left Istanbul under brutal conditions and came to live on the Peninsula. He shared his thoughts regarding the freedoms, opportunities and protections that America has to offer and was honored to serve on the COUNCIL.

COUNCIL REORGANIZATION

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN

TO APPOINT MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL AS THE CITY'S NEW MAYOR.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, IT WAS SO ORDERED.

MAYOR MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS

TO APPOINT COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN AS THE CITY'S NEW MAYOR PRO TEM.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR MITCHELL SO ORDERED.

At 8:40 p.m., MAYOR MITCHELL called for a recess.

At 9:12 p.m., the CITY COUNCIL reconvened with MAYOR MITCHELL, MAYOR PRO TEM ADDLEMAN, COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS, COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN and COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ADDLEMAN

TO APPROVE ITEMS A-C.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR MITCHELL SO ORDERED.

A. READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Reading in full of all ordinances and resolutions presented for consideration to the City Council will be waived and all such ordinances and resolutions will be read by title only.

RECEIVED AND FILED.

B. LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PRIORITY FOCUS DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2003

RECEIVED AND FILED.

C. LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES PRIORITY FOCUS DATED NOVEMBER 26, 2003

RECEIVED AND FILED.

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA/WRITTEN AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

A. RESULTS OF ADA CONSULTANT REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Recommendation: That the City Council qualify both Bucknam & Associates, Inc., and Purkiss Rose-RSI, and Crane Architectural Group.

Community Services Director Clark provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

After brief discussion, COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS moved, seconded by MAYOR PRO TEM ADDLEMAN

TO QUALIFY BOTH BUCKNAM & ASSOCIATES, INC., AND PURKISS ROSE-RSI, AND CRANE ARCHITECTURAL GROUP.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR MITCHELL SO ORDERED.

B. STATE BUDGET

Recommendation: That the City Council receive and file this report.

City Manager Prichard provided a staff report (as per agenda material).

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN commented on his support for staff benefits as he considered this to be a very important part of maintaining high quality employees to manage the City. City Manager Prichard then noted this item will be reviewed at mid-year as well as other issues regarding how the State budget will affect the City's finances.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS noted that once again the pressure is on local governments to carry the burden of the State and reiterated that the League of California Cities is in the process of submitting an initiative for voters to assist in public safety funding.

City Manager Prichard indicated that correspondence was received from the Sheriff's Department regarding a County-wide initiative for receiving additional sales tax to fund public safety and that this proposal might have voter appeal as this is tied to a specific use. He noted this will be monitored closely and will be presented to the COUNCIL in February.

COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS

TO RECEIVE AND FILE THIS REPORT.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR MITCHELL SO ORDERED.

CITY ATTORNEY ITEMS

NONE

CITY COUNCIL/REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: This item provides the opportunity for Members of the City Council to provide information and reports to other Members of the City Council and/or the public on any issues or activities of currently active Council Committees, ad hoc committees, regional or state-wide governmental associations, special districts and/or joint powers authorities and their various committees on which Members of the City Council might serve or have an interest, which are not otherwise agendaized.

A. COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2036 FOR ADOPTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS ESTATES SUPPORTING THE COASTAL CORRIDOR TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVE.

In response to COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS, Assistant City Manager Wise noted that this item is on the list of projects recommended by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG).

After brief discussion, COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2036.

City Manager Prichard read Resolution No. 2036 by title only.

ayes: addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

B. COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS reported on the Holiday Parade noted that everyone enjoyed themselves despite the bad weather. Suggestions for next year's grand marshal included David Benoit, Rod Stewart, and Greg Delgado, Fram Club.

COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS thanked Community Services Director Clark for his hard work. MAYOR PRO TEM MITCHELL then thanked COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS for her involvement in parade planning.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS: This item provides the opportunity for Members of the City Council to request information on currently pending projects and/or issues of public concern, direct that an item be agendaized for future consideration and/or make announcements of interest to the public.

A. MAYOR MITCHELL reminded everyone that the Christmas Tree Recycling Program will take place from December 26-January 17.

B. MAYOR MITCHELL thanked everyone who came out for the Holiday Parade, including Grand Marshals Jim Gamble and Harlyne J. Norris. Congratulations went out to Miraleste Intermediate School Flag Team for taking home the "Mayor's Award" for Best Local Entry and Happy Hoofers for winning the "Equestrian Sweepstakes" trophy. She also thanked Bob McCaman for his participation in announcing the parade.

C. MAYOR MITCHELL announced that the next Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Roundup scheduled for Saturday, January 24 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the City of Hermosa Beach at Clark Stadium located on Valley Drive between 8th and 11th Streets.

D. MAYOR MITCHELL noted that the City's calendars were sent out in early December to residents and businesses, and if for some reason one was not received, to stop by City Hall.

E. MAYOR MITCHELL announced that the comment period on the County's Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed golf course has been extended to March 4.

At 9:48 p.m. the CITY COUNCIL convened in closed session. At 11:15 p.m., the CITY COUNCIL reconvened in open session with MAYOR MITCHELL, MAYOR PRO TEM ADDLEMAN, COUNCILWOMAN SEAMANS, COUNCILMAN ZERUNYAN and COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN in attendance.

CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE REGARDING REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTION

(Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: 627 Deep Valley Drive

Subject of Discussion: Development Agreement

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL

TO DIRECT THE MIXED USE SUBCOMMITTEE AND STAFF TO MEET WITH THE PROPERTY OWNER AT 627 DEEP VALLEY DRIVE.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, MAYOR MITCHELL SO ORDERED.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL ITEMS (Continued)

F. MAYOR MITCHELL announced the donation of \$10,000 to the Pepper Tree Foundation from Clark and Deborah Davis.

After brief discussion, staff was directed to arrange appropriate recognition for Mr. and Mrs. Davis, along with a letter of thanks from MAYOR MITCHELL.

G. Discussion ensued regarding the Planning Commission vacancy created by COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN'S election to the COUNCIL. Staff was directed to contact those who were previously interested in serving on the Planning Commission and proceed with the recruitment as soon as possible.

H. MAYOR MITCHELL mentioned a letter received from Planning Commission Pat Killen requesting a sabbatical.

MAYOR PRO TEM ADDLEMAN moved, seconded by COUNCILMAN ZUCKERMAN

TO MAKE A FINDING THAT THIS ITEM SHOULD BE DISCUSSED SINCE IT WAS BROUGHT TO THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION SUBSEQUENT TO THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA.

AYES: Addleman, Mitchell, Seamans, Zerunyan, Zuckerman

It was the consensus of the COUNCIL to grant Planning Commissioner Killen's request.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:35 p.m., MAYOR MITCHELL formally adjourned the City Council meeting to Tuesday, December 23, 2003.

Submitted by, Approved by,

Hope J. Nolan Douglas R. Prichard

Deputy City Clerk City Manager